



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, February 17, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar (Co-Chair), Andy Robinson, Kari Sasportas, Helen Newberg

Liaisons: Christina Coleman (DEI), Lennard Diggins( Select Board), Phoenix/Em (AHS, GSA), Stewart Ikeda (Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture)

Guests: Giuliana Stovall, Kellye Eversole

### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. HMN assigned as minute-taker until 8:00pm, AR through adjournment

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines reviewed
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. SRV motions to approve consent agenda, AR seconded, motion approved unanimously.
4. Revised Meeting Format
  - a. Discussed establishing rotation for monthly minute-taking
  - b. Flipping order of agenda from liaisons first to liaisons after Commission business
  - c. Note that co-chair LK will assume most meeting-facilitation responsibility

5. Membership/Recruitment
  - a. MG has a new recruitment flyer ready to go
  - b. promoting recruitment of all including gender diverse, looking for School Committee nominee
6. Goals/Roadmap to June
  - a. Given our focus on community events, town systems & policies, and community collaboration, agreement to focus on these three events for 2022
  - b. Pride
  - c. April intersectional event with speaker Lyric Holmans who will address LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergence
  - d. November Transgender Awareness/Visibility Event
  - e. Discussion of possible town wide welcoming/inclusion initiative, may merit working group to move forward
7. Community Collaborations
  - a. KS volunteered to help lead outreach to other town boards/commissions for event planning/other connections
8. Working Group Updates and Membership (20 min)
  - a. Community Engagement Upcoming Events
  - b. Communications – Spirit article being done on LGBTQIA+ presence in Arlington in schools, town government, etc. New newsletter format having more focus on our news. Will do social media posts on various awareness months, such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, etc.
  - c. APS Engagement – Em joined us from GSA. Tour of new high school and felt it looked really good. Admin receptive to suggestions and request for bathrooms in newer building. Starting fundraising for Trans Emergency Fund. 120 GSA members, highest number in any year. Needed to expand to 3 rooms to cover all members. Did a spirit week a couple months ago. Would like RC to sponsor a few sweatshirts for GSA. \$40 sweatshirt and t-shirts closer to \$20. Would like to do same as last year, which we believe is \$250. Kari motions, Andy Seconds to donate \$250 to the GSA. Unanimous approval vote to support. Kelleve Eversole offered to match what RC gives.
  - d. Town Systems & Policies – Cross co-chair meeting with AHRC and Disability Commissions, someone asked the question if first responders know how to deal with NeuroDivergent citizens. Would it be possible to support similar policy and training for APD? Kari felt it important that any training come from the perspective of NeuroDivergent people.
  - e. Civilian Police Advisory Board Study Committee has finalized town warrant and have drafted proposed bylaws to create a permanent civilian police advisory commission, to be presented to Select Board next Wednesday. Susan will share memo sent to Select Board that summarized the work the committee did. Chief has written letter endorsing and supporting all of the recommendations and Jill has done the same.
  - f. Budget update – Remaining budget ends June 30. Received request for FY 23 funding and asked for level funding of \$4000, same as last year. Lisa asked all commissioners to share photo inventory of swag in our possession to estimate current inventory.
9. Liaison Updates (25 min)

- a. Council on Aging – not present
  - b. Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Indoor mask mandate removed. Town staff mandate lifted Tues Feb 22. Policy in place to protect anyone who wishes to continue to wear masks. Town meeting will remain remote. RFP for Equity Audit supposed to close soon. Black history month info has been posted to town website and archive will be going live next week. Jill met with AHRC to finalize schedule of their events/activities for April Stand Against Racism month and Community Conversations series over summer. Disability commission and AHRC cosponsoring our Autism Acceptance Month event.
  - c. Library - book group reading Braiding Sweetgrass
  - d. Police Department – Chabad terrorist identified, but deceased. Brother being charged with obstruction of justice.
  - e. Select Board – no report
10. Public Engagement and Open Commentary (10 min)
- a. Stewart Ikeda from Arts and Culture Commission looking to team with town commissions on public art projects or other collaborations.
  - b. Susan - Going to have Lt. Greg Flavin, head of the ranking members' union, come to talk about the impact our Transgender APD policy has had on the APD from a personal perspective at our next meeting.
  - c. Youth Behavioral Risk Survey comes out every other year and Susan will share and set time to discuss next month to talk about it and think about ways that we can find out if and/or ensure that the people who might find this information useful, such as the School Committee and others making decisions about our schools, are aware of it.
11. Close and Next Meeting: Thursday February 17, 2022

8:50pm: SRV moved to adjourn meeting, AR seconds, meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** March 17, 2022, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.